

“Hulk” Weathers

Memories of Boyhood and Graham Weathers (As Best An 83-Year Old Can Remember)

As we reached the upper grades in grade school, many of us took more and more interest in sports. I took a real liking to basketball and since I lived in town, I was able to play with others in the gym after school from time to time. We also liked to play baseball whenever we could get enough players together to play. There was no football at Stanley at that time.

At recess, some kind of ball game usually broke out and then again at lunch time. Volleyball became very popular because boys and girls could play. Graham did not share our enthusiasm for sports or at least not the sports we played.

The fact is, I really can't tell anyone what Graham did at recess or lunch. I sure don't recall him playing any baseball, basketball or volleyball. In fact, when we had neighborhood games after school and during the summer he did not join us. I do not recall him joining us in other games like “Fox and Dog”, “Old Man Kick the Can” or “Corncob Fights” at my grandfather's barn. I suppose he was home practicing playing the piano.

Graham did enjoy playing tennis and was very good at it. He took lessons at summer camp so none of us could give him a very good game. Each year Graham went to summer camp. I can't recall exactly where but I believe it was a camp operated by the Baptist church somewhere around Asheville.

One year, one of our teachers asked each of us to tell what we did during the summer. When it came Graham's time, he told of going to summer camp and of swimming, rowing, tennis lessons and the like. Then he told us he had won a trophy for ... *wrestling*. Of course no one would believe it so he brought this trophy to school the next day to prove it. Who woulda thunk it?

Bill Hawley
August 2015